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 TAGS: SCUL, KS, S
 SUBJECT: KOREA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE CONTROVERSY

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED A LETTER FROM SENATOR BAKER INQUIRING ABOUT THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING THE KOREA CHRISTIAN COLLEGE (KCC). ACCORDING TO A LETTER FROM A CONSTITUENT, THE KCC WAS ESTABLISHED IN SEOUL IN THE 1960'S BY MISSIONARIES OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST IN THE UNITED STATES. IN RECENT YEARS, INFIGHTING AMONG KCC BOARD MEMBERS RESULTED IN THE ROKG APPOINTING A NEW KCC BOARD OF TRUSTEES, ONLY TWO MEMBERS OF WHICH ARE MEMBERS OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST. IN RESPONSE, MEMBERS OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST FORMED THE KOREA-AMERICA EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATION (KAEF). FORMER MINISTER OF EDUCATION RHEE KYU-HO (M-R: YI KYU-HO) MET WITH KAEF REPRESENTATIVES IN 1983 AND AGREED TO THREE REQUESTS: 1) THE APPOINTMENT OF MALCOLM PARSLEY, A SENIOR CHURCHES OF CHRIST MISSIONARY, AS PRESIDENT OF THE KCC RATHER THAN AS ACTING PRESIDENT; 2) AUTHORIZATION TO SELL NON-CAMPUS-RELATED PROPERTIES OWNED BY THE KCC IN ORDER TO RETIRE A U.S. DOLLARS 600,000 DEBT; AND 3) RESTORING MEMBERSHIP ON THE KCC FOUNDATION BOARD TO CHURCHES OF CHRIST MEMBERS ONLY. WITH RHEE'S RESIGNATION AND APPARENT CONTINUED OPPOSITION FROM THE KOREAN CHAIRMAN OF THE KCC, HOWEVER, NO ACTION HAS YET BEEN TAKEN TO FULFILL THE AGREEMENT. THE KAEF SAYS THAT UNLESS THE AGREEMENT IS HONORED, IT WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RAISE FUNDS FOR THE KCC IN THE U.S. THE KAEF IS ALSO CONCERNED THAT THE ROKG MAY ATTEMPT TO ACQUIRE KCC PROPERTY AND REMOVE IT ENTIRELY FROM CHURCHES OF CHRIST CONTROL.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: FOR USE IN REPLYING TO SENATOR BAKER, DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION EMBASSY CAN PROVIDE CONCERNING THE CASE AND AN ASSESSMENT OF WHETHER EMBASSY COULD USEFULLY INTERVENE WITH ROKG AUTHORITIES ON BEHALF OF THE CHURCHES OF CHRIST.

DAM

END OF MESSAGE

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State Dept. review completed

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